

**What is claimed is:**

1. A process for preparing substances bearing carbodiimide from isocyanates using water and/or water-containing or -releasing substances, and/or amines and/or ureas as catalysts.  
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2. A process for preparing substances bearing carbodiimide from isocyanates obtained by reacting a mixture of
  - A) at least one starting compound having at least one isocyanate group,
  - B) at least one catalyst in an amount of from 0.01 to 30% by weight, based on the sum of  
10 A) and B), selected from
    1. water,
    2. water-containing and/or water-releasing substances,
    3. primary and/or secondary amines,
    4. ureas having the structure  $R^1\text{-NH-CO-NR}^2\text{R}^3$ , where  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each  
15 identical or different radicals having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms or H,
  - C) optionally one or more cocatalysts from the group of metal-containing substances in an amount of from 0.00001 to 1% by weight, based on the sum of A) and B),  
by holding the mixture of A), B) and, where present, C) at a temperature of from 120 to  
20 300°C and at pressures between 1 and 25 bar for from 5 minutes to 12 hours.
3. The process of at least one of the preceding claims,  
wherein  
the component A) used is cyclohexyl isocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI),  
25 hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI), 2-methylpentane diisocyanate (MPDI), 2,2,4-trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate/2,4,4-trimethylhexamethylene diisocyanate (TMDI), norbornane diisocyanate (NBDI), methylenediphenyl diisocyanate (MDI), diisocyanatomethylbenzene, especially the 2,4- and the 2,6-isomers, and technical grade mixtures of both isomers (TDI), tetramethylxylylene diisocyanate (TMXDI) and  
30 dicyclohexylmethyl diisocyanate (H12MDI).

4. The process of claim 3,  
wherein  
IPDI, HDI and/or H12MDI are used.
- 5 5. The process of at least one of the preceding claims,  
wherein  
the isocyanates used are isocyanurates, uretdiones, allophanates and/or biurets.
- 10 6. The process of at least one of the preceding claims,  
wherein  
the component B2) used comprises inorganic compounds having water of crystallization,  
molecular sieves, ion exchangers, hydrous polymer gels, for example superabsorbents.
- 15 7. The process of at least one of the preceding claims,  
wherein  
the amines B3) used are cyclohexylamine, methylamine, ethylamine, butylamine,  
dimethylamine, diethylamine, dibutylamine.
- 20 8. The process of at least one of the preceding claims,  
wherein  
the urea B4) used is dicyclohexylurea.
- 25 9. The process of at least one of the preceding claims,  
wherein  
cocatalysts C) based on tin, zinc and/or bismuth are used.
- 30 10. The process of claim 9,  
wherein  
tin(II) chloride, dibutyltin dilaurate, zinc octoate, zinc acetylacetonate and bismuth  
neododecanoate are used alone or in mixtures.